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This Quarter at

Better prepared. Better Care. Together.

A Message from the Principal Nominated Investigator

Dear <<First Name>>,

On March 31, 2026 the three-year CIHR grant supporting the development of CANTRAIN's national clinical trials training platform will come to a close. The end of a grant is always a moment of reflection: a chance to look back at where we started, take stock of what we have accomplished, and consider how to build on this foundation to drive lasting change.

CANTRAIN has been an unusual research project in the best way. What began as a curriculum-focused grant has, in just three years, evolved into a fully-fledged national initiative that delivers high-quality training and the infrastructure needed to support a stronger, more coordinated clinical trials ecosystem in Canada. It now serves as a national backbone for governance, curriculum alignment, shared delivery, and harmonized training, bringing together three other clinical trials training platforms, integrating programs into a single national system, and reducing duplication across the country. **Although this work extends beyond our original mandate, it reflects what Canada needs to strengthen its economy and improve the health of its people.**

Unfortunately, although the impact of this work is increasingly recognized by federal and provincial decision-makers, supported by CANTRAIN leadership's ongoing engagement and advocacy, **no funding has yet been secured for 2026–2027** in the current challenging socio-economic context.

CANTRAIN is not closing. We are focusing this year on transition efforts that will position us for long-term sustainability. By taking this time to realign and strengthen our foundation, we can continue offering clinical trials training and remain a trusted partner within the Canadian clinical trials ecosystem.

Moving forward will depend on the strength and resilience of the partnerships we have built over the past three years, as well as our shared commitment to sustaining CANTRAIN's programs, infrastructure, and impact. As part of this next phase, we are committed to deepening our partnerships with you in ways that respond to your needs and priorities, while also supporting CANTRAIN's continued growth. Our goal is to foster collaborations that are mutually beneficial and that strengthen our collective capacity to advance clinical trials training across Canada.

Your encouragement, partnership, and confidence in CANTRAIN have helped us meet challenges, adapt, and continue moving forward. We want to take a moment to sincerely thank everyone who has made this project possible and who has worked so hard to build something truly meaningful. This includes the CANTRAIN staff over the past three years; our governance committees; working groups; subject matter experts; patient partners; our partners across institutions and organizations; all members of the grant team (PIs, co-PIs, collaborators, and members); our provincial and national funders at various levels; and, of course, our learners.

With reflection, strategy, and resolve, endings become new beginnings. Together, we can continue building a cohesive national clinical trials training infrastructure that strengthens Canada's clinical trials workforce and amplifies the ecosystem's impact.

Warmly,

Dr. Jean Bourbeau
CANTRAIN Principal Nominated Investigator



What to Expect During this Transition

There will be a **pause in CANTRAIN activity from March 26 until the end of April 2026**, including access to the learning management system (LMS), to support the transition.

LMS access will resume in May 2026 through a partnership with McGill University, which will host CANTRAIN's training program for 2026–2027. Another partner, whose details will be shared once finalized, will also provide financial support to help ensure the smooth operation of the LMS. Together, these arrangements will ensure uninterrupted course access during the transition year for all learners at Canadian public institutions.

We will follow up in May 2026 with details on CANTRAIN's structure for the transition year. A key component will be the establishment of an **Interim Volunteer Steering Committee for 2026–2027 and Executive Committee**, which will help steward CANTRAIN's programs and partnerships as we move toward a revised, sustainable operating framework.

As part of this transition, **the newsletter will pause for now** and resume once funding is secured.

You can continue to reach us at info@wecantrain.ca if you have any questions.

THE CANTRAIN TEAM



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